

and the House of Representatives, according to the House rules and the Senate rules, then will be permitted to effectively recess without corresponding necessary action by the Senate. And the particular groups that the majority leader has addressed, their needs will be left unattended.

I just want to know what the intention of the majority is going to be with regard to those individuals, particularly since the majority leader has indicated to the minority leader that he has every indication that he is going to object to a clean continuing resolution.

This appears to be the only avenue that is left open to us. I just learned a few moments ago that this was the action that was taken in the House. And this is the inevitable action that will result if the House takes off and we pass this. Those individuals which the majority leader has identified, they will be left unattended while the House of Representatives recesses and while evidently we will be unable to take any action. We will be foreclosed from taking any action too. And I find that that is a troublesome response.

I want to say at this point, I know that the majority leader has been very positive and constructive in trying to move the larger issue about the reconciliation on the budget forward. I think all of us understand that he has tried to be and is a positive force toward moving in that direction. So I am not at this time trying to interrupt that continued kind of effort.

But that really is independent from the groups that the majority leader has mentioned, from their needs being served. I fail to see how we are going to be able to reach any conclusion with regard to those individuals because it will require both bodies taking action.

Is that the understanding of the majority leader?

Mr. DOLE. It is my understanding—I would have to check—but what happened in the House was simply to give the Speaker authority to recess for 3-day periods in accordance with their rules. I do not believe the recess takes effect at 2:30 tomorrow. It is my understanding our meeting at the White House should end about 11:15, 11:30.

If we can accomplish something tomorrow morning, which I believe we can, then it would be my hope that the House would then—either we amend the bill that is over here with a CR or they send us a CR. I am not an advocate of shutting down the Government. I never have been.

We have indicated in a letter to Senator WARNER and others that we would support on this side and the House side paying all those who were furloughed. But I think we have a larger problem, as pointed out by the Senator from Massachusetts. If everything else fails, I think the least we should do is take up the bill that is now here concerning veterans and add to it the other categories that might be affected.

Mr. KENNEDY. I appreciate that. So that would be the intention of the majority leader.

I will not object to the request. I want to commend the majority leader for that responsible action. I hope that during the time between now and tomorrow that he would use his persuasive powers, which he uses so frequently around here, to encourage that action be taken in a similar way by the House of Representatives.

Mr. DOLE. I thank my colleague from Massachusetts. I certainly will make every effort. I am not certain I will be successful, but I share many of the views he has expressed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MOYNIHAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I shall not object, it would be the right of any Senator to ask at this time that the conference report to accompany H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility Act, be read in its entirety by the clerk. Such a reading would provide the first indication to most Senators of what is in this conference report. It has been 3 full months since the bill passed the Senate, but the conference committee met only once, 2 months ago, October 24, and conducted no business at the meeting other than opening statements. The entire conference process was conducted behind closed doors and without participation by the minority, which is one reason why there is not a single Democratic signature on this conference report.

I was able to obtain a copy of the conference report only a few hours ago, as the House completed its consideration. We are woefully uninformed as to the details, but may I say that all any Senator needs to know about this legislation is that it would repeal title IV-A of the Social Security Act, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and that it will be vetoed by President Clinton. Mr. President, I do not object.

I simply want to make the point that this partisan mode is not the way great social-political issues are addressed successfully in our country, and I hope this will pass with the coming of Christmas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—START II TREATY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following the two votes, the Senate proceed to executive session to begin consideration of the START II Treaty.

Let me indicate with reference to that, there has been ongoing work that I have been indirectly involved in, in the past several days, to reach some agreement on START II. As I understand, there were seven or eight different issues that have been resolved. They are very close to getting agree-

ment. If that happens, it should not take too long to dispose of the START II treaty.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 134

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I associate myself with the remarks made by the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts. Many of us have watched with some dismay as the House continues to refuse to offer a resolution which funds the Government. They have now provided for a resolution which only funds that part of the continuing resolution dealing with veterans. We have no objection at all to the veterans resolution coming to the floor and passing it.

We would like to offer an amendment which does that for everything else, including the children and many others who are adversely affected by this Government shutdown.

It is our hope that at some point, certainly before the end of the week, that can be done and would like to see if it could be done tonight.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to House Joint Resolution 134, the veterans' continuing appropriations resolution; that the bill be read a third time and passed, as amended, with an amendment that will reopen the Government and keep it open until January 5, 1996; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I do reserve the right to object and I shall object, because it does not seem to me this will serve any constructive purpose at this time.

We are going back tomorrow. The principals are going to meet on a balanced budget in 7 years. I am not certain what action the House will take on this this evening, in any event.

As I indicated to the Senator from Massachusetts, and I will again state to the Democratic leader, it is my hope we can make enough progress tomorrow that we can do precisely what he recommends. Maybe the date will not be January 5. I do not know about that date. It does seem to me we have made progress today. If we make some in the morning, perhaps we cannot only do some other legislative business, but also pass a continuing resolution. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me just say, I hope as a result of the meeting tomorrow at the White House we can move forward with some form of a continuing resolution tomorrow. I would like it to be a complete continuing resolution, obviously, dealing with